

Considerations for Analysis of Data from the Secondary Longitudinal Studies from 1972-2000

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Module Objectives

- Describe the research potential of the secondary longitudinal studies datasets from 1972-2000
- Describe key documents that can provide insights into analyzing data from the [National Longitudinal Study of 1972 \(NLS-72\)](#), [High School and Beyond \(HS&B\)](#), and the [National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 \(NELS:88\)](#)

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Publications that have been produced from NLS-72, HS&B, and NELS:88

- Approximately 3,000 journal articles, dissertations, books or book chapters, conference papers, and reports have been produced so far
- Journal articles (47%), reports or working papers (27%), conference papers (13%), dissertations (11%), and books or book chapters (2%)
- Education, economics, demography, sociology, psychology, statistics, and psychometrics

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Transitions that can be Examined with NLS-72, HS&B, and NELS:88

Researchers use NLS-72, HS&B, and NELS:88 to examine

- NLS-72 – Transitions from high school to postsecondary education and work
- HS&B 12th grade cohort – Transitions from high school to postsecondary education and work
- HS&B 10th grade cohort – Transitions through high school and a look at late dropouts
- NELS:88 – Transitions from middle school to high school and beyond

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Following the NLS-72, HS&B, and NELS:88 Cohorts

Most cohorts followed for at least 10 years across three decades

- NLS-72 – 14 years
- HS&B 12th grade cohort – 6 years
- HS&B 10th grade cohort – 12 years
- NELS:88 – 12 years

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Types of Analyses that can be Conducted

- Across the secondary longitudinal studies, each cohort of respondents can be examined at a specific point in time or as a cross-section
 - An example of a report using cross-sectional data is: Public and Private Schools: An Analysis of High School and Beyond (HS&B) [Part I](#) and [Part II](#)
- Respondents within a specific dataset can be followed longitudinally across time
 - An example of a report using longitudinal data is: [Coming of Age in the 1990s: The Eighth-Grade Class of 1988 12 Years Later \(NCES 2002321\)](#)
- Respondents within the four cohorts can be compared across time periods to examine trends
 - Examples of reports using trend data are: [Trends Among High School Seniors, 1972-2004 \(NCES 2008320\)](#)
 - [American's High School Sophomores: A Ten year Comparison, 1980 - 1990 \(NCES 93087\)](#)
 - [Statistics in Brief: High School Seniors Look to the Future, 1972 and 1992 \(NCES 93473\)](#)

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Research Potential for Specific Periods of Time

- NLS-72 enables the examination of issues (or changes) that occurred between 1972 and 1986 to a cohort of seniors
- HS&B sophomore cohort enables the examination of issues (or changes) that occurred between 1980 and 1992 to a cohort of sophomores
- HS&B senior cohort enables the examination of issues (or changes) that occurred between 1980 and 1986 to a cohort of seniors
- NELS:88 enables the examination of issues (or changes) that occurred between 1988 and 2000 for 8th, 10th, and 12th grade cohorts

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Examining Trends Over Time for Specific Grade Cohorts

- Senior cohorts
 - NLS-72, HS&B seniors, and NELS:88/92 seniors
- Sophomore cohorts
 - HS&B sophomores and NELS:88/90 sophomores
- High School Transcripts
 - HS&B sophomores and NELS:88 seniors
- Postsecondary Transcripts
 - NLS-72, HS&B sophomores, HS&B seniors, and NELS:88/2000

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Trend Analyses Across NLS-72, HS&B, and NELS:88

- Tenth Grade
 - HS&B sophomore (BY) and NELS:88 (F1) cohorts
- Twelfth Grade
 - NLS-72 (BY), HS&B senior (BY), and NELS:88 (F2) cohorts
- Two Years after Twelfth Grade
 - NLS-72 (F2), HS&B sophomores (F2) and seniors (F1), and NELS:88 (F3) cohorts
- Dropouts (Grade 10 to Grade 12)
 - HS&B sophomores (BY and F1) and NELS:88 (F1 and F2) cohorts
- High School Transcripts
 - HS&B sophomores (F1) and NELS:88 (F2) cohorts
- Postsecondary Transcripts
 - NLS-72 (1984), HS&B (1984 and 1992), and NELS:88 (2000) cohorts
- When conducting trend analyses, researchers should review the technical documentation (e.g., design weights, sample sizes, etc.) for each data set being used

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Comparisons with More Recent Secondary Longitudinal Studies

- ELS:2002 sophomore cohort (BY) can be compared to HS&B (BY) and NELS:88 (F1)
- ELS:2002 senior cohort (F1) can be compared to NLS-72 (BY), HS&B senior cohort (BY), and NELS:88 (F2)
- ELS:2002 and HSLS:09 cohort postsecondary experiences can be compared to NLS-72, HS&B, and NELS:88
- ELS:2002 and HSLS:09 high school transcripts can be compared to HS&B and NELS:88
- ELS:2002 and HSLS:09 postsecondary transcripts can be compared to NLS-72, HS&B, and NELS:88

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Importance of Technical Documentation

- There are no short cuts when working with Secondary Longitudinal Studies from 1972-2000
- Even though there are **major** design features common across NLS-72, HS&B, and NELS:88, each of these data sets contain unique variations in methodologies used that require analysts to become familiar with the technical documentation and methodology reports that have been written
- **Researchers MUST review each study's documentation and understand how the data were collected, coded, and weighted to ensure accurate analyses**

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Must-Read Technical Documents for NLS-72

- National Longitudinal Study: Base Year (1972) through Fourth Follow-Up (1979) Data File User's Manual Volumes I through III
 - [Volume I](#)
 - Study background, sample, weights (guidance regarding weight selection), and instrumentation (questionnaires and assessments)
 - [Volume II](#)
 - Composite score analysis, constructed education variables, and subject keyword index
 - [Volume III](#)
 - Frequency distributions for the base year through fourth follow-up
- [The National Longitudinal Study of the High School Class of 1972 \(NLS-72\) Fifth Follow-Up \(1986\) Final Technical Report \(NCES 87100\)](#)
 - The final NLS-72 technical report that details methods of collection, response rates, and other technical information

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Must-Read Technical Documents for HS&B Sophomore Cohort

- [High School and Beyond Fourth Follow-Up Methodology Report. Technical Report \(NCES 1995426\)](#)
 - Describes and evaluates the methods, procedures, techniques, and activities that produced the fourth (1992) follow-up of the High School and Beyond (HS&B) study

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Must-Read Technical Documents for HS&B Senior Cohort

- [High School and Beyond Third Follow-Up \(1986\) Sample Design Report \(NCES 88402\)](#)
 - Provides information that documents major technical aspects of the third follow-up sample selection and implementation, describes the weighting procedures, documents major technical aspects of the third follow-up sample selection and implementation, examines the possible impact of nonresponse on sample estimates, and evaluates the precision of estimates derived from the sample

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Must-Read Technical Documents for NELS:88

- [User's Manual: NELS:88 Second Follow-Up: Student Component Data File \(NCES 94376\)](#)
 - Appendix H provides information on NELS:88 student data weights, flags, and composite variables (including SES) for the base year, and first and second follow-ups
- [National Education Longitudinal Study \(NELS:88/94\) Methodology Report \(NCES 96174\)](#)
 - Provides information on the subsampling and data collection activities for the third follow-up
- [User's Manual: NELS:88 Base-Year to Fourth Follow-up: Student Component Data File \(NCES 2002323\)](#)
 - Final NELS:88 technical report

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Where to Find Technical Documentation

The screenshot shows the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) website. The header includes the NCES logo and a search bar. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: Publications & Products, Surveys & Programs, Data & Tools, Fast Facts, School Search, News & Events, and About Us. The main content area is titled "Secondary Longitudinal Studies Program" and features a list of studies on the left and a large image of students on the right. The list of studies includes:

- NLS 72: National Longitudinal Study of 1972
- HS&B: High School and Beyond
- NELS 88: National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988
- ELS 2002: Education Longitudinal Study of 2002
- HSLS:09: High School Longitudinal Study of 2009

The large image on the right shows a group of students in a field, with a teacher standing in front of them. Below the image is a text box titled "National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988" that reads: "The National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 (NELS:88) began with a cohort of 8th-graders, following them until 2000, and collecting data on secondary and post-secondary experiences." A link "Learn more about NELS:88" is provided at the bottom right of the text box.

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Additional Rounds of Data Collection

- In 2015, NCES will release restricted data for the HS&B sophomore cohort that were collected in 2013-14 when many of these cohort members were in their early 50's
- In 2017, a new round of restricted data may be released for the HS&B senior cohort when many of these cohort members were in their mid-50's

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Module Summary

- Described the documentation necessary for proper analysis of secondary longitudinal studies data from 1972-2000
- Described key documents that can provide insights into analyzing data from NLS-72, HS&B, and NELS:88

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Module Resources

- [Secondary Longitudinal Studies Program](#)
- [National Longitudinal Study of 1972 \(NLS-72\)](#)
- [High School and Beyond \(HS&B\)](#)
- [National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 \(NELS:88\)](#)
- Public and Private Schools: An Analysis of High School and Beyond (HS&B) [Part I](#) and [Part II](#)
- [Coming of Age in the 1990s: The Eighth-Grade Class of 1988 12 Years Later \(NCES 2002321\)](#)
- [Trends Among High School Seniors, 1972-2004 \(NCES 2008320\)](#)
- [America's High School Sophomores: A Ten year Comparison, 1980 – 1990 \(NCES 93087\)](#)
- [Statistics in Brief: High School Seniors Look to the Future, 1972 and 1992 \(NCES 93473\)](#)
- National Longitudinal Study: Base Year (1972) through Fourth Follow-Up (1979) Data File User's Manual Volumes I through III
 - [Volume I](#)
 - [Volume II](#)
 - [Volume III](#)
- [The National Longitudinal Study of the High School Class of 1972 \(NLS-72\) Fifth Follow-Up \(1986\) Final Technical Report \(NCES 87100\)](#)
- [High School and Beyond Fourth Follow-Up Methodology Report. Technical Report \(NCES 1995426\)](#)
- [High School and Beyond Third Follow-Up \(1986\) Sample Design Report \(NCES 88402\)](#)
- [User's Manual: NELS:88 Second Follow-Up: Student Component Data File \(NCES 94376\)](#)
- [National Education Longitudinal Study \(NELS:88/94\) Methodology Report \(NCES 96174\)](#)
- [User's Manual: NELS:88 Base-Year to Fourth Follow-up: Student Component Data](#)